

male call: advice from a guy

Q: I'd like to take my girl camping, but I know she's not very outdoorsy. She says she's willing to give it a try, but I don't want to force her into anything. Your thoughts?

A: Well, there's camping, and then there's "camping." The first involves a backpack, freeze-dried beef stroganoff, topo maps and blisters. The second involves cramming as many of the small comforts of life into your SUV and driving to a campground. For you, we recommend the latter.

Here are a few tips to enhance your (her) wilderness experience:

Sleeping arrangements. Invest in an Aero Bed, a heavy-duty air mattress that can be inflated with a battery-operated pump.

Electricity. If the place has hot showers, it probably has power outlets in the bathrooms. Encourage your girl to bring along her accouterments.

Food. Besides the beer, peppered beef jerky, Spam, beer, two-pound bag of peanut M&M's and beer on your list, buy lots of fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, bread, cheese, salsa, etc., and pack it all in coolers.

Male Call answers questions from men and women on etiquette, relationships, mens style and more. Write to :

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